

revolutionary ideas; they're just ideas that too often are not followed.

Well, how much of a difference does it really make letting the public know about hospital-acquired infection rates of individual hospitals? In my home State of Pennsylvania, to give a great example of what hospitals can do when they're held accountable for these infections, many hospitals, where they are now required by law to publicly post on the Internet their infection rates, have seen their rates drop to zero or near zero. Incredible, and a good story.

According to the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, the average charge of hospitalization in 2005 for a patient who became infected with a hospital-acquired infection was over \$185,000, but the average charge for a patient without infection was \$31,000. That's \$31,000 versus \$185,000, a difference of over \$150,000 per patient. Doesn't that tell us what we can be doing to save money and save lives? Now, multiply that statistic by 49 other States and we see what happens. We need to seek areas where we can reduce costs.

Let me point out the grim statistics of this year as of today. This year's toll of health care acquired infections, such as pneumonia, urinary tract infections, or what's been called the "super bug of methicillin-resistant infections," as of today, 1,934,246 cases, 87,010 deaths, and over \$48 billion spent on infections people acquired when they go to the hospital or go to the doctor.

Twenty-two other States have taken some steps to reduce these, and we need to make sure we make this a universal system of recording.

I hope that we work this next year to emphasize patient choice, patient quality, and patient safety, and pass H.R. 1174.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2640. An act to improve the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3890. An Act to amend the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 to impose import sanctions on Burmese gemstones, expand the number of individuals against whom the visa ban is applicable, expand the blocking of assets and other prohibited activities, and for other purposes.

CLARIFICATION OF TERM OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table

the Senate bill (S. 2436) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 2436

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CLARIFICATION OF TERM OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INTERNAL REVENUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 7803(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to appointment) is amended to read as follows:

“(1) APPOINTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be in the Department of the Treasury a Commissioner of Internal Revenue who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Such appointment shall be made from individuals who, among other qualifications, have a demonstrated ability in management.

“(B) TERM.—The term of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall be a 5-year term, beginning with a term to commence on November 13, 1997. Each subsequent term shall begin on the day after the date on which the previous term expires.

“(C) VACANCY.—Any individual appointed as Commissioner of Internal Revenue during a term as defined in subparagraph (B) shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

“(D) REMOVAL.—The Commissioner may be removed at the will of the President.

“(E) REAPPOINTMENT.—The Commissioner may be appointed to serve more than one term.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply as if included in the amendment made by section 1102(a) of the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAX TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Ways and Means be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4839) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make technical corrections, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 4839

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Tax Technical Corrections Act of 2007”.

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in

this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; amendment of 1986 Code; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Amendment related to the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006.
- Sec. 3. Amendments related to title XII of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.
- Sec. 4. Amendments related to the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.
- Sec. 5. Amendments related to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.
- Sec. 6. Amendments related to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- Sec. 7. Amendments related to the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004.
- Sec. 8. Amendments related to the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.
- Sec. 9. Amendments related to the Tax Relief Extension Act of 1999.
- Sec. 10. Amendment related to the Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998.
- Sec. 11. Clerical corrections.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT RELATED TO THE TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATED TO SECTION 402 OF DIVISION A OF THE ACT.—Subparagraph (A) of section 53(e)(2) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘AMT refundable credit amount’ means, with respect to any taxable year, the amount (not in excess of the long-term unused minimum tax credit for such taxable year) equal to the greater of—

- “(i) \$5,000,
- “(ii) 20 percent of the long-term unused minimum tax credit for such taxable year, or
- “(iii) the amount (if any) of the AMT refundable credit amount determined under this paragraph for the taxpayer's preceding taxable year (as determined before any reduction under subparagraph (B)).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provision of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 to which it relates.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS RELATED TO TITLE XII OF THE PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006.

(a) AMENDMENT RELATED TO SECTION 1201 OF THE ACT.—Subparagraph (D) of section 408(d)(8) is amended by striking “all amounts distributed from all individual retirement plans were treated as 1 contract under paragraph (2)(A) for purposes of determining the inclusion of such distribution under section 72” and inserting “all amounts in all individual retirement plans of the individual were distributed during such taxable year and all such plans were treated as 1 contract for purposes of determining under section 72 the aggregate amount which would have been so includible”.

(b) AMENDMENT RELATED TO SECTION 1203 OF THE ACT.—Subsection (d) of section 1366 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) APPLICATION OF LIMITATION ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.—In the case of any charitable contribution of property to which the second sentence of section 1367(a)(2) applies, paragraph (1) shall not apply to the extent of the excess (if any) of—